Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of September 30, 2002 to October 4, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian GDP	July			Real GDP increased by a healthy 0.4% in July. Small gains in the services sector (0.1%) were compensated by the strong growth in the goods producing industries (1.2%) - particularly utilities (2.9%) and manufacturing (1.4%). On a year over year basis, real GDP was up 3.4% from July 2001.
(millions of 1997 dollars)	977,905	0.4%	3.4%	
Rigs Drilling	September			The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta edged down by 0.5% in September. On a year over year basis, drilling was down 29.6% from September 2001. Also, the number of active rigs drilling in the first nine months of 2002 is 28.9% lower than in the first nine months of 2001.
	190	-0.5%	-29.6%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	September			The Canadian help-wanted index decreased to 136.7 in September, down 14.3% from September 2001. All provinces recorded declines in September, with the largest decreases recorded in British Columbia (3.1%), Newfoundland (-1.2%), New Brunswick (-2.8%), and Alberta (-2.6%).
Alberta	136.7	-2.6%	-14.3%	
Canada	124.2	-2.1%	-13.8%	
Principal Field Crops (September production estimates, millions of tonnes)	September			Canadian September production estimates of field crops fell sharply below 2001 levels (-24.8%). The largest declines were recorded in rye (-50.0%), spring wheat (-36.0%), and canola (-33%). The low production estimates were a result of one of the worst droughts on record, with heavy rains and freezing temperatures in September and August in Western Canada.
	15.5		-24.8%	